

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/590,442  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

PATENT  
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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that thermoplastic resin [E] is a required component of the epoxy resin composition of the present invention. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the content of components [A], [B], [C], [D], and [E] in the epoxy resin composition is more than 95% by weight. This amendment is supported by the language of claim 1, itself, prior to the present amendment, and by the description in the specification in paragraph [0099] of the publication of the present application, US 20080166511 A1.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4 and 11-16 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Honda et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,994,429 ("Honda"), Nawakowski et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,386,956 ("Nawakowski"), and Middleman, U.S. Patent No. 5,269,863, each alone and in combination with the others.

The epoxy resin composition of the present invention when blended with a thermoplastic resin [E] has the properties that its viscoelasticity can be controlled and toughness is imparted thereto (see paragraph [0094] of US 20080166511 A1).

None of Honda, Nawakowski or Middleman, or any combination thereof, discloses or suggests the addition of a thermoplastic

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resin to the compositions disclosed and taught therein and none discloses or suggests the properties of the composition resulting from such addition.

Removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections is in order.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated December 28, 2010

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

In the event any additional fees are required, please also charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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